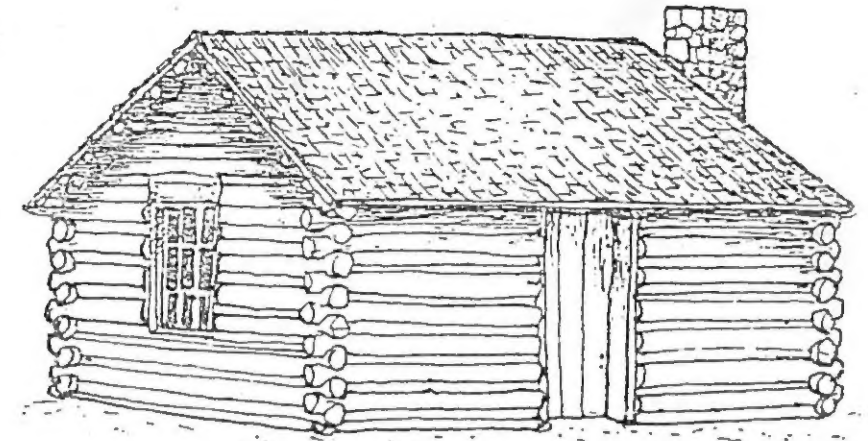


Wasatch Co. Building Survey

Name of Building: First Photography Shop = Log Cabin

Wm Sidney Willis



PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography had an early start in Heber when William Willis and his wife opened a studio in a cabin near their home on 482 S. Main. They built a new studio on the site presently occupied by Chick's. Many treasured pictures in old family albums were taken by Mrs. Willis. Mrs. Willis learned the art from her husband who operated the shop while he studied law and became a prominent attorney. Leslie Condon took over the business from the Willis', but did not maintain it long. Another photo studio was operated for a short time by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pool in the Avon Theatre building. Now Don Barker does the photography work of the valley. p170

Set
pic
of
Ellis
Clyde
Home

Information Required		Date Found
Location:		
Address:	Town: Heber, Ut.	
Architect:		
Builders:		
Building Material:		
Style of Building:		
Date Built:		
Original Owners:		
FGS		
Pedigree		
Histories		
Pictures		
Subsequent Owners:		
Notes:		
References: 1.		
2.		

Wasatch Co. Building Survey

Name of Building: _____

Information Required		Date Found
Location:		
Address:	Town:	
Architect:		
Builders:		
Building Material:		
Style of Building:		
Date Built:		
Original Owners:		
FGS		
Pedigree		
Histories		
Pictures		
Subsequent Owners:		
Notes:		
References: 1.		
2.		

WILLIAM SYDNEY WILLES



William Sidney Willes was born at Lehi, Utah, on September 5, 1858, to William Sidney Smith Willes and Alzina Lucinda Lott Willes.

When 10 years old, his father was killed in an industrial accident. Being the eldest child, he went to work to help support his mother, brothers and sisters.

When a young man, a rolling log crushed one of his legs. He spent many agonizing months, but the limb was spared and healed, with very little impairment.

He moved to Heber City, Utah, about 1880, where he was associated with A. Hatch & Co. in retail merchandising. It was in Heber City he met and later married Mary Lorintha Clyde, in the Salt Lake Temple, on November 30, 1882. To this

504

505



WILLIAM SYDNEY WILLES



William Sidney Willes was born at Lehi, Utah, on September 5, 1858, to William Sidney Smith Willes and Alzina Lucinda Lott Willes.

When 10 years old, his father was killed in an industrial accident. Being the eldest child, he went to work to help support his mother, brothers and sisters.

When a young man, a rolling log crushed one of his legs. He spent many agonizing months, but the limb was spared and healed, with very little impairment.

He moved to Heber City, Utah, about 1880, where he was associated with A. Hatch & Co. in retail merchandising. It was in Heber City he met and later married Mary Lorintha Clyde, in the Salt Lake Temple, on November 30, 1882. To this

506

HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

505

union five children were born. He spent his time at law study and was admitted to the bar entirely upon a self-study course.

His early ambitions for a career in the field of art were not to be. A mutual pact with a famous leading artist and boyhood companion for a share in the educational expense plan was never realized in his behalf, but his marvelous ability as depicted in his many paintings gave him great comfort as a pastime in his declining years.

He was a self-taught musician, playing both the violin and trumpet, and for many years was an active member of the Heber City band.

He was active in the Church, devoting much time as a high councilman. He served as Sunday school superintendent of Heber City Third Ward. Among the other varied Church activities, he served a 2 1/2-year mission in 1904 and often referred to that experience "as the richest of all."

He was purchasing agent for the Indians on the White Rock Reservation by government appointment.

He, with Mrs. Willes, established and operated the first photographic studio in Wasatch County. They also operated for a limited time in Vernal, Utah.

He was appointed by President Grover Cleveland, September 26, 1894, as "judge of probate in the county of Wasatch, Territory of Utah." He was attorney for the D&RG Railroad for Wasatch County many years and held several elective and appointive offices in Wasatch County.

He moved with his family from Heber City to Salt Lake City in 1918. He was juvenile judge of the Fourth Judicial District until his retirement in 1928.

He is to be remembered for his deep desire for learning and self and cultural improvement. His contribution was to the Church, community, state and nation.

He died in Salt Lake City, May 21, 1938, and was buried in Heber City Cemetery.

MARY LORINTHA CLYDE WILLES

Mary Lorintha Clyde was born in Heber City, Utah, on September 24, 1862, to George Washington Clyde and Jane McDonald Clyde. She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on August 7, 1870.

See her picture over this page

She was a literary genius, a fluent speaker and a natural-born speaker, who used her talents to improve educational standards and spread the gospel.

At the age of eight, she received a set of pictures as a prize from Heber First Ward on winning a speech contest when she competed with people much older than herself. She taught school before she was 17, and, to quote her: "Many of the men in my class towered head and shoulders above me."

Her greatest joy was in teaching and counseling boys. She often said: "Give me the heart of a boy and you have given me something which lasts forever." This was demonstrated at her final rites, when men from all walks of life paid her tribute with silent tears. It was her policy to promote the underprivileged and unruly boys by putting them in positions of trust.

The Church records of Heber First Ward read as follows:

"Miss Mary Clyde, first president of the Heber First Ward Primary Assn., set apart by Bishop William Foreman on September 4, 1879.

"Released October 17, 1884. Married while in office."

This tells us she also served as charter president while 17 years of age.

She married William Sidney Willes in the Salt Lake Temple on November 30, 1882. To this union five children were born.

She and Mr. Willes established the first photographic studio in Wasatch County. It was here she supported her family and made possible the mission of her husband to England in 1904. They operated for a limited time a photographic studio at Vernal, Utah.

She established the first public library

506

HOW

in Wasatch County by circulating her own private library.

She was an active Church member and leader, serving in all auxiliary organizations. She was a dramatic and a humorous reader and entertained generously. She taught dramatics in the YLMIA, coached their plays and toured Wasatch County with her young Thespians.

She was literary teacher in the Relief Society and was feature speaker at ward and stake activities. She served her community with eagerness. One assignment of which she was ever proud was in assisting with plans for the celebration of Utah statehood.

She was the first vice president of the Utah State Federation of Women's Clubs.

In 1918 she moved with her family to Salt Lake City from Heber City, where she continued her Church services as a literary teacher, speaker and entertainer.

She organized "The Home Study Group," which has grown from its original 10 members to over 100 women who continue to study and promote Church doctrines.

She was a member of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Camp 11, Salt Lake County.

She was a devoted mother, with the highest principles of moral and religious obligations.

She served her community, stake and Church until curtailed by ill health in her declining years.

She died in Salt Lake City, Utah, on November 8, 1940, and was buried in Heber City Cemetery.

